



Maryland Agriculture Data

Weekly Crop and Weather Report



MD-CW0402

APRIL 22, 2002

Planting Accelerates

The combination of unseasonable high temperatures and dry conditions allowed Maryland farmers 5.5 **days suitable for field work** that were used to accelerate planting activities. With the exception of potatoes, planting progress is ahead of schedule. **Green pea, tomato, and corn** planting is now 23 percent, 17 percent, and 10 percent ahead of average respectively. **Cantaloupe, cucumber, and snap bean** planting has begun with 14 percent, 10 percent, and 8 percent planted respectively.

Warm temperatures also stimulated fruit trees to bloom. **Apples** are 39 percent bloomed, 15 percent ahead of the previous week, and **peaches** are 89 percent bloomed, 20 percent ahead of the previous week. **Strawberries** are 47 percent bloomed, 15 percent ahead of the previous week.

Small grains are rated in mostly good to excellent condition with **winter wheat** rated 6 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. **Barley** is rated 2 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 24 percent excellent.

Scattered showers last week helped to maintain soil moisture. **Topsoil moisture** is 3 percent very short, 37 percent short, and 60 percent adequate. **Subsoil moisture** is 29 percent very short, 49 percent short, 21 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 21, 2002 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1997-2001
Planting Progress:				
Cantaloupes	14	3	9	6
Corn	20	9	8	10
Cucumbers	10	7	3	3
Potatoes	56	51	36	80
Green Peas	83	60	70	60
Snap Beans	8	5	1	5
Sweet Corn	23	14	17	18
Tomatoes	30	9	17	13
Fruit Crops Bloomed:				
Apples	39	24	13	42
Peaches	89	69	33	75
Strawberries	47	32	38	39

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 21, 2002 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	3	37	60	0
Topsoil (2001)	0	2	69	29
Subsoil Moisture	29	49	21	1
Subsoil (2001)	0	4	76	20

Carrie Louey
Mathematical Statistician

Ray Garibay
State Statistician